Export of Wheat

1549. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether it are considering to export wheat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for the export;

(d) whether the price of the rice supplied through fair price shops has been increased from 3rd October, 1994; and

(e) if so, by how much and the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The Government has released a quantitative ceiling of 3 lakh tonnes of Durum wheat and 5 lakh tonnes of non-durum wheat for export from the open Market during 1994-95. The Food Corporation of India is also eligible to export wheat from the Central Pool subject to certain conditions. Apart from this, recently the Government has authorised Food Corporation of India to sell initially 50,000 MTs of wheat from the Central Pool to the State Trading Corporation for the purpose of export on the prevailing price fixed for open sale of wheat by the FCI in the Open Market. The decisions taken for allowing export of wheat has been due to better local availability of foodgrains on account of two consecutive good crop years of 1992-93 and 1993-94 (July—June); and thereby excellent stock of foodgrains built up by the Government.

(d) and (e) No Sir. The Central Issue Prices of Rice-Common-Fine and Superfine which were due to be increased by Rs. 60 per quintal w.e.f. 1-10-1994 has been kept in abeyance.

Licence for Sugar Mills

1550. SHRI JOYANTA ROY : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news paper report which appeared in "The Statesman" dated 13th October, 1994, under the caption Rules get the cane; facts a cost of sugar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The letters of intent for setting up of new sugar factories referred to in the newspaper report have been granted by the Ministry of Industry keeping in view the recommend a tions of the Screening Committee/Administrative Ministry/Licensing Committee, on the basis of financial and technical viability of the projects, the prevailing Licensing Policy Guidelines and the financial capability/ industrial background of the applicants.

Schools for Mentally Retarded Children

1551. SHRI IQBAL SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of Schools which are meant for the mentally retarded children in the country;

(b) the details thereof, School-wise/State-wise; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take in order to make the mentally disabled children self-dependent in the country, particularly in Jallandhar city of Punjab ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DE PTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) Accouning to information furnished by the Ministry of Welfare, the number of Schools for mentally retarded children in the country is 578.

(b) The number of schools, State-wise, is given in the enclosed statement. (*See* below)

(c) The Ministry of Welfare has established an apex level Institute, viz., National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped at Secunderabad with the objectives of providing education, training, vocational guidance, counselling research, rehabilitation and developing suitable service modules for the mentally handicapped. The Inrtitute acts as a premier documentation and information centre in the area of mental retardation. The Ministry of Welfare is also providing financial assistance to voluntary or anisations for education, vocational training and rehabilitation of the disabled, including mentally retarded children for manpower development in the field o cerebral palsy and mental retardation; and or establishment of special schools for disabled children in the country including Punjab.